

Lemos, June

From: Gabriel Maroney <gabrielquinn@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Lemos, June
Cc: Miller, Tabatha; Peters, Lindy; Norvell, Bernie; Morsell-Haye, Jessica; Albin-Smith, Tess; Lee, Will
Subject: Re: Fort Bragg Name Change GQM.
Attachments: Some Historical Facts about the Name of Fort Bragg.pdf

Greetings yet again June,

Is it possible for Tabatha, a council member, or yourself to read the historic points made by our historic council?

I don't plan to be there in person as have compromised Covid in the house, and not sure if my internet will be well enough for comments through zoom.

If so I would greatly appreciate it.

On Monday, June 22, 2020, 4:05:51 PM PDT, Lemos, June <jlemos@fortbragg.com> wrote:

Hi Gabriel:

I've already republished the agenda for tonight. Your comments will be added tomorrow with all the others I receive between now and then. There are almost 400 pages of public comment, so I'm not reading any into the record unless specifically asked to as an accommodation. I see you've already copied the Councilmembers with your email, so they will have it in advance of tonight's meeting.

June Lemos, CMC

City Clerk

City of Fort Bragg

416 N Franklin St

Fort Bragg CA 95437

707.961.2823 ext. 104

From: Gabriel Maroney <gabrielquinn@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Miller, Tabatha <TMiller@fortbragg.com>; Morsell-Haye, Jessica <Jmorsellhayefortbragg.com>; Lee, Will <Wlee@fortbragg.com>; Albin-Smith, Tess <Talbinsmith@fortbragg.com>; Norvell, Bernie <Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com>; Lemos, June <jlemos@fortbragg.com>; Peters, Lindy

<LPeters2@fortbragg.com>; McCormick, Sarah <SMcCormick@fortbragg.com>

Subject: Fort Bragg Name Change GQM.

8A. 20-774 Conduct City Council Discussion and Provide Direction to Staff Regarding Submitting to the Voters a Local Ballot Measure Changing the Name of the City of Fort Bragg.

Greetings,

attached you will find my comments on the discussion of potentially changing the name of Fort Bragg City. I also submitted an inquiry to our local historic society archive and have included the response. Both PDFs are attached and then also in writing below on this email.

June, please file both comments under neutral even though I am not for a name change at this time. It will be more clear if the comments are read of course.

Thank you all for efforts to be skeptically openminded and with sagacious actions.

Essentially,

Gabriel Quinn Maroney

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Dear Fort Bragg City Honorary Council, Vice Mayor, and Mayor,
Below you will find my brief comments on the discussion of changing the name of Fort Bragg, also I have inquired to our local historic society for insights related and I have attached the response.

8A. 20-774 Conduct City Council Discussion and Provide Direction to Staff Regarding Submitting to the Voters a Local Ballot Measure Changing the Name of the City of Fort Bragg.

Even years before the 2015 discussions about changing the name of Fort Bragg I thought it was a viable idea. The reasons are because it was a bit confusing as there is another more well know Fort Bragg and of course other obvious reasons, such as there really is no Fort. I have advocated directly to the council in the past that the name be changed to reflect the natural treasures and an economy based on health and ecology. This is why I suggested names like “Emerald Riviera,” that would also be excellent marketing. This is also somewhat consistent with how the Natives named the area. You can see that they had been very practical in calling it, “Surrounded by Trees.” That being said, our effort priorities currently due to the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak would seem misguided if focused on a name change.

Consider this: when the city was on much better financial footing and clear of mind, the decision was made previously not to change the name. Folding now to political pressures and changing the name out of sync with local healthy growth would be divisive, an undue resource drain, overly political, and dividing to our community during a time we are literally fighting to stay alive.

As we know the town was NOT named after a Confederate General, but instead a man that was considered to be a U.S. Army war hero. So many articles portray history with such simplistic and unfortunate black and white lenses. Removing a name and substituting it for another is very similar to taking down a statue as we have seen during this apparent North American Cultural Revolution. As such, if it is to be done at all, it should be done with great care. Removed with respect and proper ceremony and

of course preserved. If there was a rush to change the name due to recent political pressures it would be the equivalent of having a mob come in and tare it down disrespectfully. This type of incident is not good and usually just causes further cultural divides. Please raise your shields to protect our community from such a tawdry revolt, as our society does not need destructive revolution, but instead a constructive Renaissance.

Because high profile politicians such as Governor Newsom and Congressmen Huffman have further politicized the issue and essentially said a name change would be the right thing to do, I would like to see conversations with them by the council; for one to discuss the agenda in general, yet also for them to help secure finances for a name change in the event it does occur. It would make sense to me to secure at least \$300,000 for the name change costs and another \$50 million+ to help the local economy reboot after a forced shutdown by the government.

I do not believe now is the time for a name change, yet nor should we necessarily close the door forever to its potential. Ideally, if a name change was to ever take place, it would be after a full economic recovery and further build out of the old mill site that could potentially propel not only a robust economy forward, but an even more matured identity that would aid in selecting a more accurate name.

Our bioregion has such rich history; it deserves to be further discovered, highlighted, and protected. This is why I have advocated in the past for a type of historic council. Regarding direct recommended action I do not see staffs #1 or #2 as being currently viable (1. Pursue a ballot measure to change the name of the city. 2. Prepare an ordinance changing the name of the city.) and find actions 3-6 much more appropriate (3. Not pursue changing the city name. 4. Establish a citizen commission to evaluate the best way forward. 5. Table the matter. 6. Consider the matter at a later meeting.). I am in favor of engendering a Historic/Cultural/Economic body that might be made up of for example local Tribal members, The Skunk Train, The Fort Bragg/Mendocino Historic Society, Chamber of Commerce, and so on to work at preserving and highlighting local history.

One of their many agenda items could potentially included the issue of renaming the town.

Rededicating the town to all the productive people named Bragg seems like an OK idea in the mean time, yet also somewhat of a pandering maneuver. Our history including the name of the City serves as an important reminder of the past and we are all one people that shall not be divided by color or creed.

Please do not pursue changing the city name at this time.

Thank you as always,

Gabriel Quinn Maroney

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SOME HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT THE NAME OF FORT BRAGG

Fort Bragg-Mendocino Coast Historical Society

- 1) Braxton Bragg was a captain in the U.S. Army during the “Mexican War” and in 1848 was considered a war hero. He then retired back to his plantation in North Carolina. In the 1860s he joined the Confederacy.
- 2) 1st Lt. Horatio Gates Gibson in 1857 named the new Army Post “Camp Bragg” in honor of his former Mexican War commander. Shortly thereafter Camp Bragg was referred to in correspondence as “Fort Bragg” but never had palisades and fewer than two dozen soldiers.
- 3) The American Civil War ended in 1864. Bragg never visited his namesake in northern California.

4) Yes, Bragg was a slave owner, as were many “Founding Fathers,” such as Washington, Jefferson, etc.

SOME OF THE “INDIAN NAMES” IN OUR AREA

1) “Pomo” was the Whites’ name for local Native people. “Po-ma” was the name (“people”) of one inland village. Early Whites mistakenly applied the name to other Native villages in the area.

2) The native name for what is now Fort Bragg was NOT “Noyo,” but “Kah-lah-de-mun” (Surrounded by Trees).

3) “No-yau” (“Under the Dust,” referred to blowing sand from dunes), was a village north of Fort Bragg in the area of today’s Virgin Creek.

4) The name “Noyo” was incorrectly located by the U.S. Geological Survey’s mapmakers.

5) The port and fishing village (now Noyo) grew up around a saw mill built at the mouth of the river called Brushy Creek by the Natives. The mill was illegally built in 1958 on Indian land during the Mendocino Indian Reservation period (1856-1867).

6) The lumber company that built here in the mid-1880s chose the name of the former Army Post for this place, instead of any other name that predated their arrival.

NOTES

We cannot adopt names of other places already officially taken as part of a postal address.

Erasing the history of a place prevents learning to chart a better course in the future.

Native Americans named places for what was special about or abundant at that location.



Email correspondence with the City of Fort Bragg (and attachments, if any) may be subject to the California Public Records Act, and as such may therefore be subject to public disclosure unless otherwise exempt under the Act.

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